



To: Members of the Senate
From: Allie Bush, Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce
Subject: Support Common Core
Date: October 2, 2013

On behalf of the Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce (GRACC) and our 2,700 members, we ask for your support of the implementation of the Common Core State Standards.

Michigan businesses rely on top-tier talent to compete in the global marketplace. A key driver for talent is a robust and rigorous K-12 education system designed to provide students the best opportunities for success.

Unfortunately the numbers show that Michigan is falling behind. In Michigan, 68% of third graders read proficiently, 76% are graduating high school, and only 20% of high school graduates are considered to be career- or college-ready.

Common Core is an opportunity to better prepare our students for the workforce. Common Core has been adopted by 46 states and was developed to provide a clear set of K-12 standards for Mathematics and English Language Arts that students can expect regardless of where they live. These standards improve upon Michigan's current standards, and empower local schools and educators to develop their own curriculum and lesson plans to best meet the needs of their students.

Michigan needs the Common Core to ensure its high school graduates are career- and college-ready. Good paying jobs increasingly require more education and the jobs will go where those educated workers can be found.

If we are to remain competitive with the 21st Century global economy, our students and their families deserve every opportunity to develop the knowledge and skills they will need to succeed.

Again, we urge you to support the implementation of the Common Core State Standards. If you have any questions or would like to discuss the importance of Common Core, please do not hesitate to contact me at 616.771.0311.

Sincerely,


Andy Johnston
Vice President of Government Affairs


Allie Bush
Public Policy Coordinator